

When Christian's are in Willful Sin, Part 3 - 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 – November 2nd, 2014

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series I've titled, "When Christian's are in Willful Sin."
- Up to this point, the Apostle Paul has sort of risen from the pages of scripture to show us how we're to deal with those in sexual immorality.
- In so doing, we're seeing just how serious willful sin is, particularly when it's sexual in nature, which is why Paul has to deal with it this way.

1. Confront Them (Verses 1-2)

- v1 Paul says there's sexual immorality among them; it's of a kind that even pagans don't tolerate. A man is sleeping with his father's wife.
- v2 He says they are proud when instead they should have gone into mourning and put out of their church the man who has been doing this.

2. Remove Them (Verses 3-5)

- v3 Paul says even though he's not physically present, he's with them in spirit and has already passed judgment on the one who's doing this.
- v4 He goes on to say that when they're assembled together he will be with them in spirit, and the power of the Lord Jesus will be present.
- v5 The reason for this is to hand him over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

3. Rid yourself of them (Verses 6-8)

6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- v6 Paul says that their boasting is not good then rhetorically asks them, don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?
- v7 He says get rid of the old yeast, and be a new unleavened batch as they really are, for Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.
- v8 He says to keep the Festival not with the old bread leavened of malice and wickedness, but the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- It's important to understand why Paul says what he says, or, one could misunderstand this as being disproportionately harsh and unloving.
- In order to understand the "why" behind the "what," we'll first need to know a few things about why Paul would use the analogy of leaven.
- First, the leaven spoken of here is the yeast was used in the dough so it would "puff up," and the old yeast was used to start a new batch.

- The problem with this is that using the old lump of yeast to start a new batch over and over again made them susceptible to food poisoning.
- As such, they were to get rid of the old batch, lest the bacteria end up being spread throughout it, which would ruin the whole new batch.
- It's for this reason that on the day before Passover, which was called the Day of Preparation, the Jews would rid their homes of all leaven.

- This because, they could not have any leaven in their homes during the Passover, or the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which lasted 6-days.
- I suppose you could say Paul drawing this comparison would grab their attention given that they'd know exactly what he was talking about.
- In other words, the church there in Corinth was to rid them self of the leaven, which is a type of sin, before it spreads through the church.

- By the way, we'll celebrate the sinless Christ when we partake of the unleavened bread during our communion service at the end today.
- I hope you know that Jesus fulfilled the Feast of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits at his crucifixion, burial and resurrection.
- Be that as it may, we still have a problem that needs to be resolved as it relates to the why behind the "what" of the Apostle's blunt rebuke.

- Namely, that of this unrepentant man and the Corinthians puffed up pride boasting about how loving and tolerant they are of his willful sin.
- The point being is that they must rid themselves of him and with him the leaven that has the propensity to spread it's poison to the church.
- This reminds me of the saying that goes like this, "Mercilessly destroy that sin before that sin spreads and then mercilessly destroys you."

- So too is this true particularly when it comes to sexual sin, which is not bad because it's forbidden, rather, it's forbidden because it's bad.
- Perhaps better said, the reason why willful sexual sin is forbidden is because, like the poison in the yeast, it can destroy ones whole life.
- We need look no further than to the Book of Proverbs, which is replete with warning after warning concerning the destruction of sexual sin.

Proverbs 5 warns about the deception of sexual sin,
Proverbs 6 warns about the destruction of sexual sin
Proverbs 7 warns about the deadliness of sexual sin

Proverbs 5 warns about the deception of sexual sin:
Proverbs 5:3-4 - 3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; 4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

Proverbs 6 warns about the destruction of sexual sin:
Proverbs 6:23–30 (NKJV) — 23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. 25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent. 30 People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving.

Proverbs 7 warns about the deadliness of sexual sin:
Proverbs 7:21–24 (NKJV) — 21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. 22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, 23 Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life. 24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth:

- I'll close with a question, and it's one for which I ask in the most loving yet firm way that I possibly can; "How far has my willful sin spread?"
- Lastly, let me hasten to say, if you and I don't completely rid our self of that little leaven of sin, it could end in destruction and even death.